

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297887

USIAEA

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM USUN NEW YORK DATED DECEMBER 9, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5505

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UN, US
SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL BJORNERSTEDY'S VIEWS ON
THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION ON THE PEACEFUL USE
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL ROLF BJORNERSTEDT, HEAD OF
THE UN CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT, RAISED WITH MISOFF ON
DECEMBER 7 HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTUION ON
THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT (A/32/L.15/REV.1), PARTICULARLY THE IMPLICA-
TIONS OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 4 WHICH INVITES STATES TO
CONSIDER CONVENING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR
CONFERENCES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN SYSTEM. THE
RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS IN THE UNGA PLENARY ON
DECEMBER 8 (SEPTTEL).

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2. BJORNERSTEDT SAID THAT HE FORESWA AN EARLY EFFORT BY
THE NON-ALIGNED TO ASSURE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WOULD BE
HELD IN NEW YORK WITH ITS PRINCIPAL FOCUS ON TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THIS CASE, THE
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE
WOULD FALL TO EITHER UNDP OR THE DEPARTMENT OF

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (ESA) UNDER THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

3. BJORNERSTEDT CONTINUED THAT THIS WOULD DO SHORT-SHRIFT TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE IAEA REGARDING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. IT WOULD ALSO DOWN-PLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES BY GIVING PRIMACY TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. BJORNERSTEDT SAID THAT IN THIS VIEW IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD UNDER IAEA AUSPICES IN VIENNA. HOWEVER, WERE A CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK, BE BELIEVES THE CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN A MAJOR ROLE IN ITS ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING IN ORDER TO ASSURE APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS.

5. BJORNERSTEDT SAID THAT HE WAS BRINGING THIS TO OUR ATTENTION NOW BECAUSE HE FELT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG OR AMBASSADOR LEONARD TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT AN EARLY DATE BEFORE ANY PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS WERE MADE. WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT THE RESOLUTION ONLY ASKS THE SYG TO OBTAIN SUGGESTIONS

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AND OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBER STATES ON THE CONFERENCE QUESTION, THIS PROCESS ITSELF WOULD BE DELEGATED TO ONE OF THE UN COMPONENT BODIES -- UNDP, ESA, OR THE CENTER FOR DISARMAMENT. IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER, HE CONCLUDED, TO ESTABLISH THE PROPER FOCUS FOR AN EVENTUAL CONFERENCE NOW RATHER THAN TRY TO CHANGE DECISIONS LATER ON.

6. WE BELIEVE IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO SUGGEST TO THE SYG HOW HE SHOULD ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTING REPLIES FROM MEMBER STATES. NOR IS ITS NECESSARY, INSTEAD, WE BELIEVE OUR OWN REPLY SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF SCHEDULED CONFERENCES AND MEETING DEALING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY, INCLUDING THE INFCE, THE 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE 1980 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE. IF THERE IS EVENTUALLY TO BE A CONFERENCE, IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER THE RESULTS OF THE FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION ARE AVAILABLE AND SHOULD BE HELD UNDER IAEA AUSPICES IN VIENNA. AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, WE COULD DISCUSS OUR POSITION WITH OUR ALLIES AND THE SOVIET IN PREPARA-

TION FOR THE PROBABLE LOBBYING ON THE CONFERENCE ISSUE
DURING THE 33RD UNGA.
YOUNG UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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